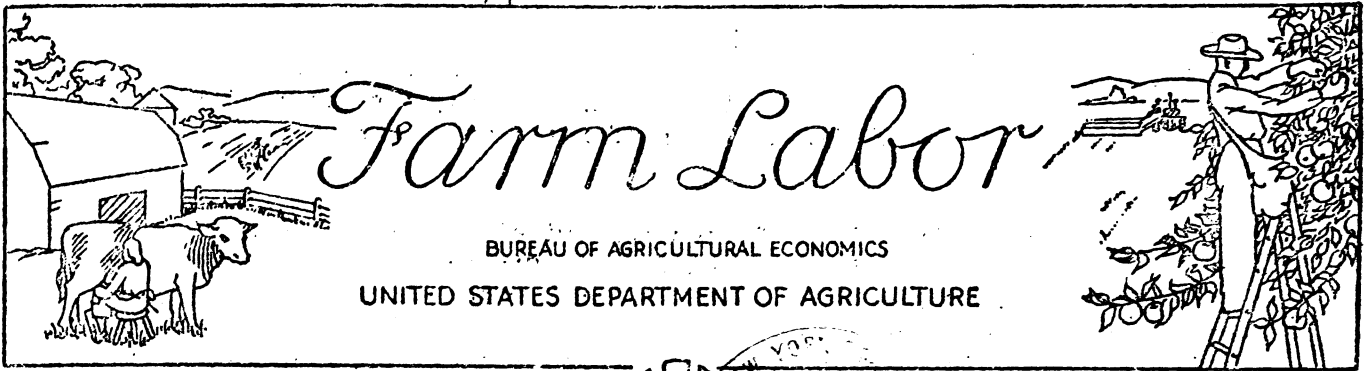


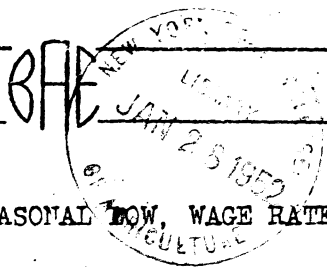
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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1952



FARM EMPLOYMENT AT SEASONAL LOW, WAGE RATES UP

A total of 6,524,000 people were working on farms during the week of December 23-29, as farm work reached its seasonal low point, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This is 4 percent below the comparable week in 1950 and is the lowest estimate of record. There were 4 percent fewer family workers than a year ago while hired workers numbered 6 percent less than 1950. Total employment dropped a fourth from the preceding month.

Farm wage rates increased 5 percent from October 1 to January 1, after holding about steady since April. The seasonally adjusted wage rate index on January 1 was 498, up 11 percent from a year earlier.

Farm wage rates varied from about steady to 9 percent above 3 months earlier by regions, when measured by the seasonally adjusted index. The largest increase occurred in the West South Central States. Increases ranged from 3 to 5 percent in the North Central, Mountain, and Pacific States. In comparison with a year ago, farm wage rates were up in all regions with the smallest increase of 7 percent in the Pacific States. The South Atlantic States reported the greatest rise in wage rates, 12 percent.

Individual types of farm wage rates were all higher than a year earlier for the country as a whole. Increases were fairly uniform, with hourly rates without board and room showing the smallest increase. However, changes from October 1 in individual kinds of rates varied considerably because of seasonal factors. Monthly and daily rates with house and hourly rates without board and room were up. The hourly rate was up sharply because of the greater extent to which the rate was used in the higher rate areas, especially the Pacific States. Other types of rates were about the same as on October 1 or slightly less, except for hourly rates with house. Hourly rates with house usually average lower in January than in October because larger proportions of workers are paid at this rate in the lower wage rate areas in January.

Hired farm workers were averaging about 69 cents per hour in cash wages on January 1 as indicated by the composite rate per hour. This rate is the average of all types of rates converted to hourly equivalents weighted by the estimated number of workers employed at each rate. The average cash earnings per hour in January were about 6 cents higher than a year ago. They were up 3 cents from October 1 but this change is not as significant as the change

from a year earlier. The average hourly composite for the entire country by quarters is affected by a number of seasonal factors such as the proportion of hired workers employed in various regions, the proportion of workers employed at the different types of rates and the average time worked per day.

Wage rates for individual States vary widely. The per hour without board and room rate which is reported for all States ranged from 48 cents to \$1.13 per hour. South Carolina and Alabama were the only States where these rates averaged less than 50 cents per hour. The hourly rate averaged \$1.00 or more in 12 States, most of them in the West. Per month rates with house averaged \$200 or more in the 3 Pacific States and in Idaho. They were under \$130 in only 3 States.

For 1951 as a whole, farm wage rates were up 11 percent from 1950. Monthly rates with house averaged \$137 for the year, day rates without board and room averaged \$5.00, per hour rates without board and room averaged 77 cents, and average hourly earnings 62.5 cents (the average of all types of rates).

Farmers were doing little more than chores during the week of December 23-29 in many parts of the country. Moderate to heavy snow cover in the northern States and the holidays limited outdoor work to hauling grain and other products to market, shelling corn, and pruning trees and vines in the fruit areas. Harvest of citrus and winter vegetables was active and there was some field preparation and planting of early spring vegetables in southern areas of Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California. In the northern Mountain States, the feeding of livestock was time-consuming because of the heavy snows and tightening of feed supplies.

Persons working on farms during the survey week consisted of 5,688,000 family workers and 836,000 hired workers. There were about a fifth fewer family workers than in November and only half as many hired workers. The declines were slightly greater than usual for the season. Regionally, the number of family workers decreased most in the South Atlantic and East South Central States. Hired employment dropped most sharply in the South Central Region. The near-completion of cotton picking was largely responsible for these decreases.

Total employment decreased most from a year earlier in the North Central, South Atlantic, and East South Central States, largely because of unfavorable weather. However, earlier completion of fall work in parts of these regions was also a factor. In the Northeast, there were a few more persons working on farms. The number of family workers employed on farms in the New England and the Middle Atlantic States was up slightly from a year earlier. Hired employment was up a little in the Middle Atlantic, Mountain, and Pacific States.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Employment

Farm employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics cover persons doing farm work on all farms. Mailed questionnaires are received every month from 15,000 to 20,000 farmers who report the number of persons working on their farms. Interview surveys of farmers are used less frequently to provide bench mark data on employment. The survey week for the mailed questionnaire each month is the last complete calendar week in the month except when that week includes the last day of the month; in that case, the survey week is the next to the last full calendar week.

Employment concepts

All farm operators are counted as employed if they spend one hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business. Members of the operator's family or household doing unpaid farm work or chores, are counted if they put in 15 hours or more during the survey week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria of employment are called family workers. All persons doing one or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the survey week are counted as hired workers. Members of the operator's family doing farm work for cash wages are counted as hired workers. Croppers are considered family workers when working on their own crops, but hired workers when doing farm work for pay off their own tracts. If a person is employed both as a family worker and a hired worker during the week on the same farm he is counted as a hired worker.

Comparability with other data

The data on farm employment published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics differ from those on agricultural employment published by the Bureau of The Census in The Monthly Report On The Labor Force. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects information from the employer (the farmer) who reports the number of persons working on his farm during the week, regardless of the other jobs held by those workers. The Census data, on the other hand, are obtained through interviews with approximately 25,000 farm and nonfarm households with the housewife or some other member of the household reporting on the labor force status of the household members. They relate only to persons 14 years of age and over, who are in the civilian population and not in institutions.

The difference between the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Census data is attributable mainly to the different treatment of three groups of workers. Children under 14 years of age who meet the criteria of employment are included in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates,

but not in the Census Bureau's. It is estimated that this number may reach a summer peak as high as two million. Persons working on more than one farm during the survey week are counted only once by the Census Bureau, but they are counted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on each farm where they work and meet the minimum hour requirements. This group is also more numerous during the harvest season when the demand for farm labor is greatest. The additional count of workers attributable to this duplication is estimated at a minimum of a quarter of a million and may be considerably larger. The third group is composed of persons who work in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment, but work longer at the nonagricultural job; they are classified by Census as working on nonagricultural employment, but by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as working on a farm. This last group may range from one-half million to a million in different seasons of the year.

Other groups counted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics but not by the Census Bureau are imported foreign workers and some migratory workers not living in private households. On the other hand, the Census Bureau includes in its estimates of agricultural employment certain classes of workers which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics does not include. Persons with "nonfarm" occupations who are working on farms, such as bookkeepers and typists, some persons in certain agricultural processing activities, and farm operators with no other job who did no farm work are considered as employed in agriculture by the Census Bureau, but are not included by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its estimates of agricultural employment.

Because the volume of agricultural employment is affected by changes both in season and in weather, the difference in the week of the month for which the data are collected may also make some difference. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics data relate to the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month while the Census Bureau information relates to the week containing the 8th of the month.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates farm employment from current reports made by a selected group of farmers adjusted to enumerative survey bench mark data. The Bureau of the Census bases its figures on a sample of dwelling units. Accordingly, the figures in both cases are subject to a sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

Wage rates

Wage rates are reported quarterly by the same sample of farm operators that reports employment. The farmer is asked to report average wage rates being paid "at this time" in his locality. The "at this time" on the average probably represents the second or third day before the end of the month.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of December 23-29, 1951, United States, with comparisons

	: December : average : 1945-49 1/2	: December : 24-30, : 1950	: November : 18-24, : 1951	: December : 23-29, : 1951
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons):				
Total	7,353	6,782	8,873	6,524
Family labor	6,370	5,897	7,216	5,688
Hired labor	983	885	1,657	836
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100)				
Total	92	85	85	82
Family labor	94	87	87	84
Hired labor	81	73	77	69

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes and related data, January 1, 1952, with comparisons 1/

	: Oct. 1, : 1950	: Jan. 1, : 1951	: Oct. 1, : 1951	: Jan. 1, : 1952
FARM WAGE RATES				
Per month, with board and room	\$102.00	\$105.00	\$116.00	\$116.00
Per month, with house	123.00	127.00	138.00	141.00
Per week, with board and room	24.75	24.25	28.50	27.25
Per week, without board or room	31.25	31.75	35.25	35.00
Per day, with board and room	4.50	4.50	5.00	5.00
Per day, with house	3.70	3.75	4.10	4.20
Per day, without board or room	4.95	4.65	5.50	5.20
Per hour, with house75	.59	.81	.65
Per hour, without board or room66	.79	.73	.86
Composite rate per hour 2/590	.626	.656	.693
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)				
Adjusted for seasonal variation	428	450	476	498
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers 3/	270	293	294	305*
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates	63	65	62	61

1/ Wage rates on the average refer to a date two or three days before the first of the month.

2/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

3/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.

* December 15, 1951.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of December 23-29, 1951, United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	: December : : average : : 1945-49 1/:	: November : : 19-25, : : 1950	: December : : 24-30, : : 1950	: November : : 18-24, : : 1951	: December : : 23-29, : : 1951
	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Thousands</u>
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT					
United States	: 7,353	8,940	6,782	8,873	6,524
New England	: 176	182	163	192	165
Middle Atlantic	: 492	527	453	528	460
East North Central	: 1,247	1,344	1,184	1,360	1,120
West North Central	: 1,440	1,492	1,347	1,454	1,282
South Atlantic	: 1,276	1,826	1,159	1,794	1,094
East South Central	: 1,052	1,599	960	1,582	899
West South Central	: 984	1,199	878	1,184	875
Mountain	: 275	326	260	327	258
Pacific	: 411	445	378	452	371

FAMILY WORKERS 2/					
United States	: 6,370	7,293	5,897	7,216	5,688
New England	: 140	140	128	140	132
Middle Atlantic	: 402	424	371	422	374
East North Central	: 1,120	1,183	1,066	1,183	1,016
West North Central	: 1,331	1,340	1,244	1,314	1,188
South Atlantic	: 1,063	1,496	970	1,469	921
East South Central	: 941	1,299	861	1,280	812
West South Central	: 883	918	794	920	794
Mountain	: 215	214	199	213	196
Pacific	: 275	279	264	275	255

HIRED WORKERS 3/					
United States	: 983	1,647	885	1,657	836
New England	: 36	42	35	52	33
Middle Atlantic	: 90	103	82	106	86
East North Central	: 127	161	118	177	104
West North Central	: 109	152	103	140	94
South Atlantic	: 213	330	189	325	173
East South Central	: 111	300	99	302	87
West South Central	: 101	281	84	264	81
Mountain	: 60	112	61	114	62
Pacific	: 136	166	114	177	116

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Average number of persons employed per month, January through December 1951, United States and geographic divisions with comparisons 1/

Geographic division	1945-49	1948	1949	1950	1951
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT					
United States	10,981	11,080	10,756	10,351	10,022
New England	233	232	231	224	223
Middle Atlantic	632	628	623	612	599
East North Central	1,579	1,593	1,542	1,501	1,467
West North Central	1,880	1,907	1,816	1,759	1,687
South Atlantic	2,260	2,291	2,221	2,118	2,043
East South Central	1,846	1,840	1,815	1,738	1,677
West South Central	1,579	1,605	1,545	1,470	1,422
Mountain	411	414	409	397	383
Pacific	561	570	554	532	521
FAMILY WORKERS ^{2/}					
United States	8,599	8,595	8,326	8,043	7,799
New England	170	170	166	160	157
Middle Atlantic	478	473	463	454	448
East North Central	1,329	1,335	1,282	1,258	1,230
West North Central	1,611	1,627	1,552	1,506	1,457
South Atlantic	1,766	1,766	1,710	1,634	1,565
East South Central	1,470	1,450	1,428	1,370	1,322
West South Central	1,186	1,183	1,155	1,103	1,078
Mountain	283	283	273	267	258
Pacific	306	308	297	291	284
HIRED WORKERS ^{3/}					
United States	2,382	2,485	2,430	2,308	2,223
New England	63	62	65	64	66
Middle Atlantic	154	155	160	158	151
East North Central	250	258	260	243	237
West North Central	269	280	264	253	230
South Atlantic	494	525	511	484	478
East South Central	376	390	387	368	355
West South Central	393	422	390	367	344
Mountain	128	131	136	130	125
Pacific	255	262	257	241	237

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions,
January 1, 1952, with comparisons

Geographic divisions	October 1, 1950	January 1, 1951	October 1, 1951	January 1, 1952
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
<u>Per month with board and room</u>				
New England	98.00	102.00	112.00	112.00
Middle Atlantic	96.00	97.00	109.00	107.00
East North Central	99.00	99.00	111.00	110.00
West North Central	103.00	101.00	117.00	114.00
Mountain	128.00	126.00	144.00	137.00
Pacific	152.00	156.00	162.00	164.00
<u>Per month with house</u>				
New England	126.00	140.00	142.00	146.00
Middle Atlantic	130.00	133.00	150.00	148.00
East North Central	121.00	126.00	140.00	142.00
West North Central	126.00	125.00	140.00	140.00
Mountain	158.00	163.00	176.00	178.00
Pacific	192.00	202.00	210.00	217.00
<u>Per week with board and room</u>				
New England	26.00	26.00	30.50	30.50
Middle Atlantic	26.25	26.00	29.75	28.00
<u>Per week without board or room</u>				
New England	37.00	38.00	41.50	42.00
Middle Atlantic	35.00	36.00	40.25	38.50
<u>Per day with board and room</u>				
East North Central	4.95	4.85	5.50	5.40
West North Central	5.40	5.20	6.20	5.70
<u>Per day with house</u>				
South Atlantic	3.40	3.55	3.85	3.95
East South Central	3.00	3.00	3.30	3.25
West South Central	4.20	4.15	4.70	4.55
<u>Per day without board or room</u>				
New England	6.70	6.80	7.40	7.30
Middle Atlantic	6.40	6.40	7.10	6.90
East North Central	6.10	6.10	6.90	6.90
West North Central	6.80	6.50	7.60	7.20
South Atlantic	4.10	4.25	4.65	4.80
East South Central	3.60	3.60	3.95	3.90
West South Central	4.85	4.70	5.40	5.20
Mountain	6.90	6.20	7.50	7.10
<u>Per hour with house</u>				
South Atlantic	-	.46	-	.54
East South Central	-	.41	-	.44
West South Central	-	.51	-	.57
Pacific88	.92	.94	.96
<u>Per hour without board or room</u>				
New England87	.90	.96	.96
Middle Atlantic83	.81	.93	.89
East North Central84	.84	.93	.92
West North Central86	.87	.94	.95
South Atlantic51	.55	.58	.62
East South Central46	.49	.52	.54
West South Central58	.60	.64	.66
Mountain84	.79	.90	.83
Pacific94	.97	1.02	1.03

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Annual farm wage rates and index numbers, United States, 1910-51

Year	Per Month		Per Day		Monthly		Index of com-		Per Month		Per Day		Monthly		Index of composite rate 1910-14=100
	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	With board	Without board	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1910	21.00	28.00	1.05	1.35	23.00	96	1930	37.50	48.00	1.80	2.15	42.00	175		
1911	21.50	28.00	1.05	1.35	23.50	98	1931	28.50	38.00	1.30	1.65	32.00	133		
1912	22.00	29.50	1.10	1.40	24.50	102	1932	20.50	29.00	.95	1.20	24.00	100		
1913	22.50	30.00	1.15	1.40	25.00	104	1933	18.00	25.50	.90	1.15	21.50	89		
1914	22.50	29.50	1.10	1.35	24.50	102	1934	20.00	28.00	1.00	1.25	24.00	100		
1915	22.50	30.00	1.10	1.40	24.50	102	1935	22.00	30.50	1.10	1.35	26.50	110		
1916	25.00	33.00	1.25	1.50	27.00	112	1936	24.00	32.50	1.20	1.45	28.50	118		
1917	31.00	40.50	1.55	1.90	34.00	141	1937	27.50	36.50	1.35	1.65	32.00	133		
1918	37.50	48.50	2.05	2.45	42.50	177	1938	27.00	36.00	1.30	1.55	31.00	129		
1919	43.00	56.00	2.40	2.90	49.50	206	1939	27.50	36.00	1.25	1.55	31.00	129		
1920	51.00	65.00	2.80	3.30	58.00	241	1940	27.50	37.50	1.30	1.60	31.50	131		
1921	33.50	44.50	1.65	2.05	37.50	156	1941	34.50	44.50	1.65	1.95	38.50	160		
1922	33.00	43.50	1.65	2.00	37.00	154	1942	45.50	59.00	2.20	2.55	50.00	208		
1923	37.50	47.50	1.95	2.35	42.50	177	1943	59.00	77.00	2.90	3.30	66.00	274		
1924	38.00	49.00	1.95	2.40	43.50	181	1944	71.00	91.00	3.50	3.95	79.00	328		
1925	38.50	49.00	2.00	2.35	44.00	183	1945	79.00	101.00	3.85	4.35	88.00	366		
1926	39.50	50.00	2.00	2.40	44.50	185	1946	86.00	108.00	4.20	4.80	96.00	399		
1927	39.50	50.00	2.00	2.35	44.50	185	1947	92.00	117.00	4.50	5.10	102.00	424		
1928	39.50	50.00	2.00	2.30	44.50	185	1948	99.00	124.00	4.80	5.40	107.00	445		
1929	40.00	51.00	2.00	2.30	45.00	187	2/								
1948	101.00	122.00	24.50	30.50	4.50	3.50	.64	.73	4.45	.580	.445				
1949	99.00	121.00	23.75	30.75	4.45	3.50	.63	.68	4.45	.559	.430				
1950	99.00	121.00	23.50	31.00	4.45	3.50	.62	.69	4.50	.561	.432				
1951	113.00	137.00	27.25	34.50	5.00	3.90	.69	.77	5.00	.625	.481				

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per month basis.

2/ Different wage rate categories used after 1948.

3/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

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